

Hemp, Robert LT

Sent:
Subject:

Saturday, July 14, 2001 7:21 PM
P 142140Z JUL 01,SITREP-POL ONE/ACTUAL MAJOR, METHYL MERCAPTAN AND
CHLORINE,COGARD MSO DETROIT MI

P 142140Z JUL 01
FM COGARD MSO DETROIT MI
TO CCGDNINE CLEVELAND OH//CC/M//
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOR/G-OPF//
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//AM/ACC//
COGARD NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER WASHINGTON DC
COGARD NSFCC ELIZABETH CITY NC
COGARD AST FORT DIX NJ
COMCOGARDGRU DETROIT MI
COGARD AIRSTA DETROIT MI
COMCOGARD NPFC WASHINGTON DC
COGARD FINCEN CHESAPEAKE VA//ORGQ//
COMCOGARD MLC LANT NORFOLK VA//FCP-2//
HQ EPA WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/US EPA REGION V CHICAGO
COGARD STA BELLE ISLE MI
BT
UNCLAS //N16465//
OPER/ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT HAZMAT RELEASE//
MSGID/SITREP-POL/COGARD MSO DETROIT MI/-//
SUBJ/SITREP-POL ONE/ACTUAL MAJOR, METHYL MERCAPTAN AND CHLORINE
RELEASE, RAIL CAR FIRE, ADJACENT TO TRENTON CHANNEL, RIVERVIEW, MI, MC
01008815, CPN C01124//
RMKS/1. SITUATION.

A. OVERVIEW: TANK CAR WITH POTENTIAL QUANTITY OF 25K GALLONS
METHYL MERCAPTAN LEAKED AND CAUGHT FIRE AT ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT IN
RIVERVIEW, MI. ADJACENT TANK CARS W/ POTENTIAL 165K LBS CHLORINE GAS
VENTING CHLORINE. LOCAL FIRE RESPONDERS EXTINGUISHED FIRE AND ARE
COOLING CHLORINE TANK CARS. THREE EMPLOYEES CONFIRMED DEAD. AT LEAST
ONE OTHER INJURY REPORTED. MSO DETROIT WAS NOTIFIED AT APPROXIMATELY
0630Q OF TANK CAR EXPLOSION AT ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT IN RIVERVIEW,
MI. MSO DETROIT PERSONNEL ARRIVED O/S AT 0845. TO ENSURE SAFETY OF
MARINERS AND PUBLIC, TRENTON CHANNEL AND DETROIT RIVER WERE CLOSED
BETWEEN GRASSY ISLAND LIGHT AND THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO,
CANADA. COTP DETROIT AND MARINE COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC SYSTEM IN
SARNIA, ONTARIO CLOSED AND LATER REOPENED AFFECTED PORTIONS OF THE
DETROIT RIVER WITHIN US AND CANADIAN WATERS. THREE COMMERCIAL VESSELS
WERE DELAYED. OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACTS TO THE REGION ARE MINOR.

B. O/S WX: WINDS NW 5-10 KTS, 80 DEGREES F, MOSTLY SUNNY.

C. FACILITY DATA: ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT, 17168 WEST JEFFERSON,
RIVERVIEW, MI 48219.

D. SAR STATUS: NO COAST GUARD SAR ACTIVITY

E. COAST GUARD RESOURCES SUMMARY: THREE MSO DETROIT RESPONDERS
ARRIVED O/S, ONE HH-65A FROM AIRSTA DETROIT CONDUCTED AN OVERFLIGHT,
ONE CG AUX FACILITY AND ONE VESSEL FROM STA BELLE ISLE RESPONDED TO
DIRECT VESSEL TRAFFIC OUT OF AREA. CANADIAN COAST GUARD VESSEL
DIRECTED TRAFFIC AT SOUTHERN END OF CLOSURE. D9 (DPA), NOAA SSC, AND 2
ATLANTIC STRIKE TEAM (AST) REPS ARE O/S. SEVEN COMMAND AND CONTROL
STAFF AT MSO. SEVEN ADDITIONAL AST MEMBERS E/R.

F. RESOURCES AT RISK: NO SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL OR HISTORIC
RESOURCES IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT RISK.

G. ECONOMIC IMPACT: THREE COMMERCIAL VESSELS WERE DELAYED. ONE
SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL CO. OPS SHUT DOWN. A CIVIC FESTIVAL IN TRENTON,
MI AND ART FESTIVAL IN WYANDOTTE, MI WERE FORCED TO CLOSE. NEGLIGIBLE
ECONOMIC IMPACT TO REGION.

H. KEY STAKEHOLDER ISSUES: RESIDENTS OF FOUR COMMUNITIES WERE
REQUESTED TO EVACUATE OR SHELTER IN PLACE. ALL RESIDENTS EXCEPT THOSE
IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY WERE LATER ALLOWED TO RETURN. WATERWAY
CLOSURE IMPACTED COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL TRAFFIC. CANADIAN

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



406660

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY CONCERNS WERE ALSO ADDRESSED. CANADIAN COMMUNITIES WERE BRIEFED BY CCG AND MOE. JMPCP AND CANUSLAK ANNEX WARNING HAS BEEN SENT, BUT INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE PLANS NOT OFFICIALLY ACTIVATED.

I. HEALTH AND HUMAN SAFETY FACTORS: METHYL MERCAPTAN PRODUCES POISONOUS GASES WHEN IT BURNS, IS POISONOUS IF INHALED OR SWALLOWED, AND HARMFUL TO AQUATIC LIFE IN VERY LOW CONCENTRATIONS. AIR MONITORING CONDUCTED COMMENCING 141430Q JUL 01 AND STILL ONGOING. LIMITED RESIDUAL CHEMICALS IN VICINITY OF CHEMICAL PLANT AND NOWHERE ELSE DETECTED. CHLORINE PRODUCES POISONOUS GASES IN FIRE AND IS POISONOUS TO AQUATIC LIFE IN VERY LOW CONCENTRATIONS.

J. MEDIA INTEREST: HIGH LOCAL INTEREST, MODERATE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INTEREST. MSO DETROIT PAO CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL RADIO STATION AND CNN RADIO. NUMEROUS CALLS FROM DETROIT AND WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA MEDIA.

K. CASUALTY INFORMATION: DAMAGE TO TANK CARS IS UNKNOWN. PRP HIRED SRS AND KEEN INDUSTRIAL CO. TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF DAMAGE. NO ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE TO RAILS OR ADJACENT FACILITY STRUCTURES AVAILABLE. THREE CONFIRMED DEATHS AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER INJURY, THE EXTENT OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN.

L. INCIDENT/UNIFIED COMMAND STATUS: COMMAND POST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS FROM FIVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, MSO DETROIT, EPA, MICHIGAN DEQ, WAYNE CO. HEALTH DEPT. NOAA SSC O/S THROUGHOUT EMERGENCY PHASE.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. 140630Q JUL 01: MSO DETROIT AND STATION BELLE ISLE NOTIFIED.
- B. 0700: BNTM ISSUED CLOSING THE TRENTON CHANNEL TO ALL VESSEL TRAFFIC.
- C. 0730: NOTIFIED EPA AND ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT.
- D. 0745: BRIEFED D9 CC.
- E. 0800: ATLANTIC STRIKE TEAM NOTIFIED AND PLACED ON STANDBY.
- F. 0830: CONTACTED BY NTSB RAILWAY DIVISION, PROVIDED BRIEF.
- G. 0845: MSO DETROIT O/S AT INCIDENT COMMAND POST.
- H. 0945: BRIEFED CANADIAN COAST GUARD.
- I. 1015: RECEIVED REPORT FROM COMPANY OF THREE FACILITY WORKER FATALITIES.
- J. 1020: CONTACTED NPFC, OBTAINED CPN.
- K. 1030: BRIEFED WAYNE CO. MARINE POLICE.
- L. 1045: NOTIFIED MICHIGAN STATE POLICE.
- M. 1050: BRIEFED D9 M, REQUESTED SSC.
- N. 1100: FIRE OUT, BUT CHLORINE TANKS CONTINUED TO VENT.
- O. 1140: AIRSTA OVERFLIGHT AIRBORNE WITH MSO REP O/B.
- P. 1148: ISSUED CANUSLAK WARNING MESSAGE.
- Q. 1218: CG 6540 REPORTS SIGHTING NO FLAMES OR SMOKE AND NO GREEN (CHLORINE) GAS.
- R. 1223: CG 6540 REPORTS NO SIGN OF FISH KILLS.
- S. 1234: COMPLETED NOTIFICATION OF LOCAL MARINAS.
- T. 1241: CG 6540 O/D AIRSTA DETROIT, VIDEO AND STILL PHOTOS TAKEN.
- U. 1245: MERCAPTAN LEAK SECURED BY FD, EPA CONTINUES TO CHARACTERIZE ATMOSPHERE.
- V. 1250: D9 PA O/S.
- W. 1334: BRIEFED D9 CC.
- X. 1340: COTP ENROUTE COMMAND POST.
- Y. 1340: TANK REPAIR CONTRACTOR KEEN INDUSTRIAL COMPANY O/S
- Z. 1400: PRESS CONFERENCE. CG REPRESENTED BY D9(DPA) REP.
- AA. 1415: CHLORINE RELEASE SECURED BY PRP AND RIVERVIEW FD.
- BB. 1430: FOSC AND SSC ON SCENE.
- CC. 1500: SITUATION DOWNGRADED BY LOCAL FD. DETROIT RIVER AND TRENTON CHANNEL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL ATMOSPHERE IS CHARACTERIZED.
- DD. 1544: AST O/S.
- EE. 1545: UNIFIED COMMAND MEETING.
- FF. 1645: DETROIT RIVER AND TRENTON CHANNEL REOPENED BY COTP AND CCG.
- GG. 1700: ALL PLANT PROCESSES CEASED.
- HH. 1830: NTSB REP O/S. ADDITIONAL AST REPS LANDED AT DETROIT METRO AIRPORT ENROUTE COMMAND POST.

3. ADDITIONAL INFO:

A. CPN INFO: OBTAINED CPN, C01124.

B. CPN CEILING \$10,000. EXPENDED: CG COSTS \$1000, CONTRACTOR COSTS BORNE BY PRP.

4. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION, STRIKE TEAM TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE. ASSESSMENT OF TANK CARS. MONITOR RESIDUAL WATER. CONTINUE AIR MONITORING.

B. CO'S COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: NTSB TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION. INCIDENT HAS PASSED FROM EMERGENCY TO REMEDIAL PHASE; WILL BE EXTENDED, MULTIDAY RESPONSE. AST PROVIDING OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT; SAME AS WELL WITH EPA, NOAA SSC AND OTHER INVOLVED PARTNERS.

C. CASE PENDING.

BT
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